

Message Text

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ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 IGA-01 EB-04 TRSE-00 RSC-01 /016 W

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FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8682

INFO AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NDJAMENA 2725

JOINT STATE/AID

E O 11652: NA

SUBJ: CHAD MEDIUM TERM PROJECT: IRRIGATED AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT

REF: STATE 226527

1. CDO MEETING ON 18 OCT WITH ROPITEAU OF IBRD POLDER TEAM
RESULTED IN FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

A) THAT AS RESULT OF ONE-WEEK STUDY ON SITE WITH SODELAC
OFFICIALS, IBRD CURRENTLY THINKING ALONG TERMS OF INITIAL FOUR
YEAR, DOLS 20 MILLION PROJECT BASED ON SCET STUDY TO INCLUDE
FULL IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE SYSTEMS FOR GUINI AND BERIM POLDERS,
BOTH NOW DRY; AND CONSTRUCTION OF DIKE, PUMPING WATER OUT OF,
AND DETAILED ENGINEERING OF MAMDI POLDER, NOW INUNDATED;

B) SECOND PROJECT IN APPROXIMATELY SAME DOLLAR MAGNITUDE TO
BE UNDERTAKEN TWO TO TWO-AND-ONE-HALF YEARS LATER WOULD INVOLVE
IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE SYSTEM FOR MAMDI POLDER AND WORK ON
ADDITIONAL POLDERS NOT YET IDENTIFIED. REASON FOR SECOND FOLLO-
ON PROJECT IS THAT RELIABLE DETAILED ENGINEERING OF MAMDI POLDER
CAN NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL DIKE BUILT AND POLDER DRAINED; ALSO
DEVELOPMENT OF MAMDI IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE SYSTEM AT THIS TIME
WOULD REQUIRE ADDITIONAL DOLS 12 MILLION WHICH WOULD BRING INITIAL
PROJECT COST TOO HIGH.

2. FIREMAN HAS ALREADY DEPARTED. HIS REPORT ON SOIL CONDITIONS
WILL BE AVAILABLE AT ORSTROM OFFICE IN NDJAMENA. HIS NOTES
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EMPHASIZE THAT: (A) FULL DRAINAGE OF POLDERS IS NECESSARY; (B)

CONSIDERABLY MORE INFORMATION ON SOIL CONDITIONS WILL HAVE TO BE DEVELOPED FOR ENGINEERING, AS WELL AS AGRICULTURAL, PURPOSES; (C) SALINITY AND ALKALAI CONDITIONS DEMAND CONSIDERATION, BUT PROBLEMS CAN BE AVOIDED BY DRAINAGE; (D) BIG PROBLEM WILL BE CAUSED BY IRREVERSIBLE SHRINKAGE OF CLAY WITH FORMATION OF LATERITE-LIKE MATERIALS; (E) ECOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS REQUIRE FURTHER STUDY. OVER-ALL CONCLUSION IS THAT INTENSIVE CONTINUING RESEARCH EFFORT WILL BE REQUIRED FROM BEGINNING AND THROUGH DURATION OF PROJECT, INVOLVING FULL-TIME TEAM OF PERHAPS FOUR TO FIVE MEN.

3. ROPITEAU SUGGESTION FOR USAID PARTICIPATION:

A) PICKING UP MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY FOR RESEARCH REQUIREMENTS INDICATED ABOVE; AND/OR (B) IMPLEMENTATION OF RAVEL-LIKE SCHEME AS PILOT PROJECT FOR COMPARATIVE PURPOSES ON DIEBOUBOUL POLDER, APPROXIMATELY 500 HECTARES IN SIZE, NOW DRY, AND WITHIN TWO KILOMETERS OF IBRD SITE.

4. CDO DISCUSSIONS ON 18 OCTOBER WITH MINPLAN LAMANA RESULTED IN FOLLOWING: LAMANA DOES NOT WANT TWO DISPARATE, NON-COMPLEMENTARY PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED SIDE-BY-SIDE. HE INQUIRED INTO POSSIBILITY OF AID ADOPTING SCET SCHEME. CDO RESPONDED THAT AID WOULD STUDY POSSIBILITY OF COLLABORATING WITH IBRD IN COMMON UNDERTAKING AND/OR FULLY COMPLEMENTARY PROJECT. CDO MENTIONED IBRD SUGGESTIONS INDICATED ABOVE AS POSSIBILITIES. LAMANA REACTION WAS NOT OPENLY NEGATIVE.

5. ROPITEAU HAD NOT YET MET WITH LAMANA, OR OTHER HIGH GOC OFFICIALS. THEREFORE, GOC REACTION TO IBRD POSITION NOT YET KNOWN.

6. ROPITEAU IS LAST IBRD MAN IN CHAD. HE INTENDS DEPART NDJAMENA O/A 26 OCT.
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